

REMARKS

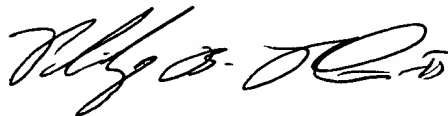
Claims 1-28 are pending. Claims 1-3, 8-11, 16-19 and 24-28 are finally rejected. Claims 4-7, 12-15, and 20-23 are finally objected to.

The Office action states that Claims 4-7, 12-15, and 20-23 would be "allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Without acquiescing to the rejection, to expedite the progress of the application, claims 4-7, 12-15, and 20-23 have been rewritten in independent form and now stand ready for examination.

III. Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, Applicants request withdrawal of the claim rejections, and solicit an allowance of the claims. The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney should any issues remain unresolved.

Respectfully submitted,



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